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4 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



State Department review completed



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Approved For Release 2004/12/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007300050001-5

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DAILY BRIEF

USSR-Berlin: (The Soviet Union is again trying to promote direct contacts between West Berlin officials and representatives of the East German government.)

(This time the Soviets are hinting at the possibility that West Berlin Mayor Brandt could talk directly to East Berlin Mayor Ebert, without the East German government "being drawn into the conversation," about the "human problems" caused by the wall.)

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(Against this background the East Germans have proposed meetings between West Berlin Senat representatives and GDR officials.)

(The USSR's aim in fostering these contacts is to underscore the separate status of West Berlin and the advantages that West Berlin can gain from dealing independently with both East and West.)

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*Honduras: The Honduran military forces which carried out a coup d'etat on 3 October met with some armed resistance but seem to be in effective control of the country.

Initial resistance in the capital city of Tegucigalpa came from the Civil Guard, which remained loyal to the ruling Liberal Party and the government of President Jose Ramon Villeda Morales. Casualties may number as many as 120 dead and wounded. Some Civil Guard outposts in western Honduras had still refused to surrender by nightfall.

President Villeda and Modesto Rodas Alvarado, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate who would have won the 13 October election, have been flown to exile in Costa Rica.

According to an army communiqué, Colonel Oswaldo Lopez Arellano, chief of the armed forces, has assumed the office of "head of state" and will govern by decree. Lopez may plan to institute a civilian government as soon as order is restored since he has previously expressed a belief that "military men should not govern."

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[] The possibility of further disorder and civil strife cannot be ruled out, since Rodas may attempt to rally his loyal supporters against the military. [President Orlich of Costa Rica told US Ambassador Telles on 3 October that Rodas plans to organize a "counterrevolution." Orlich said that he feels "morally obligated" to help and would offer arms.]

Military leaders claim their action was necessary to prevent a fraudulent election, the further growth of the Liberal-oriented Civil Guard, and a possible civil war after the election. They have also accused the Villeda Morales government of "tolerance and complicity" towards Communist infiltration.

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Ecuador: The junta which toppled President Arosemena last July is coming under increasingly heavy fire and may at least be reshuffled.

Junta president Admiral Castro Jijon's relations with Communists and Air Force representative Colonel Freile's venality are discrediting the regime. Labor and student dissatisfaction with certain of the junta's reform decrees is building toward a climax, while other civilian elements are disappointed with the slow pace of reform. Also, discontent among army sergeants, who recently were denied retirement, is generating rumors that an NCO revolt is in the making.

In addition to the opposition of leftists and opportunistic political groups, the powerful Conservative Party which heretofore has supported the junta is becoming disillusioned. [REDACTED]

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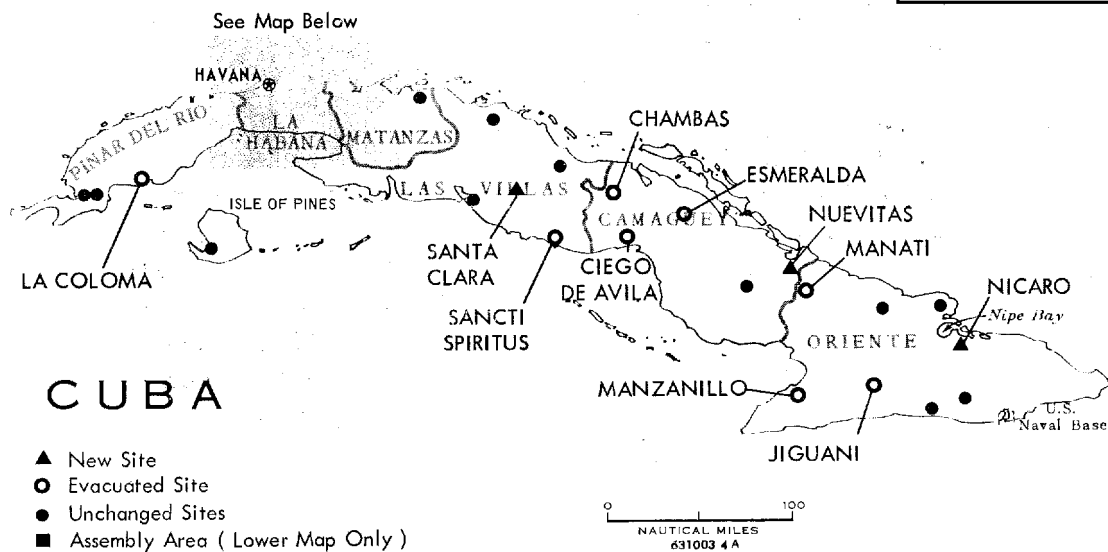
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[REDACTED]

There are indications that the person most likely to emerge as Ecuador's strong man is General Marcos Gandara, the junta's most capable and respected member. Although Gandara enjoys wide military and civilian support, his power position depends on the attitude of Defense Minister Naranjo, who favors some changes in the present junta.

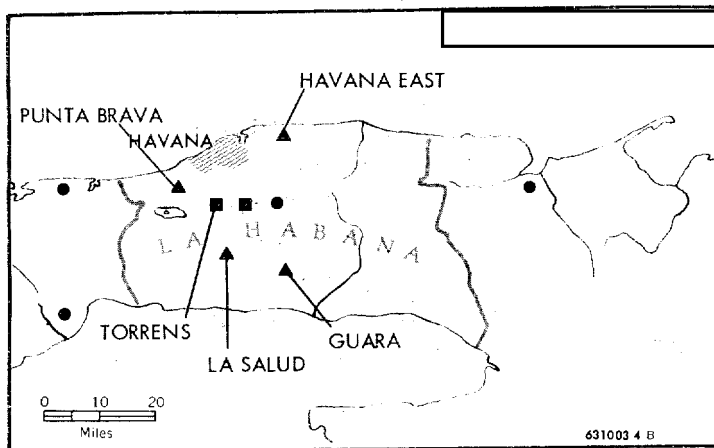
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HAVANA AREA SAM INSTALLATIONS (NEW ONES IDENTIFIED)



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*Cuba-USSR: The realignment of the surface-to-air missile (SAM) system in Cuba continues with particular emphasis on a perimeter defense of Havana.

Recent high-altitude photography shows that four SAM sites and a SAM assembly area have been established in the Havana area within the past week. Havana is now ringed with five SAM sites, while three others protect the approaches to the city. These eight sites are supported by two missile assembly areas.

Another site was recently relocated near Nuevitas on the northern coast to provide greater protection for that important port installation.

In all, eight SAM sites and one assembly area have been evacuated since 19 September, and at least seven sites and one assembly area have thus far been re-established at other locations.

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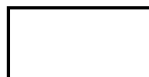
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NOTES

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Yemen-USSR: (The 10,000-foot asphalt runway at al-Rawdha airfield near Sana--a Soviet aid project-- has been completed in about six months. The field is now capable of handling IL-18 civil aircraft, AN-12 transports, and military jet fighters and light bombers. The Soviet performance in constructing the airfield has apparently enhanced the already favorable Soviet image in Yemen.)

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